

## Wildlife Interpretations

### General

Soils directly affect the kind and amount of vegetation that is available to wildlife as food and cover. They also affect the development of water impoundments. The kind and abundance of wildlife that populate an area depend largely on the amount and distribution of food, cover, water, and living space. If any one of these elements is missing, inadequate, or inaccessible, wildlife will be scarce or will not inhabit the area. If the soils have the potential, wildlife habitat can be created or improved by planting appropriate vegetation, properly managing the existing plant cover, and fostering the natural establishment of desirable plants.

Soils are rated according to their potential for providing habitat for various kinds of wildlife. This information can be used in planning parks, wildlife refuges, nature study areas, and other developments for wildlife. It can also be used in selecting soils that are suitable for establishing, improving, or maintaining specific elements of wildlife habitat.

### Suitability Ratings

Good - means that the element of wildlife habitat or the kind of habitat is easily created, improved, or maintained. Few or no limitations affect management, and satisfactory results can be expected if the soil is used for the designated purpose.

Fair - means that the element of wildlife habitat or kind of habitat can be created, improved, or maintained in most places. Moderately intensive management is required for satisfactory results.

Poor - means that limitations are severe for the designated element or kind of wildlife habitat. Habitat can be created, improved, or maintained in most places, but management is difficult and requires intensive effort.

## Wildlife Habitat Suitability

### Description of Wildlife Habitat Elements

Grain and seed crops are seed-producing annuals used by wildlife. Examples are corn, wheat, rye, oats, barley, millet, buckwheat, and sunflowers.

Grasses and legumes are domestic perennial grasses and herbaceous legumes that are planted for wildlife food and cover. Examples are fescue, bluegrass, brome grass, timothy, orchardgrass, clover, alfalfa, trefoil, reed canarygrass, and crownvetch.

Wild herbaceous plants are native and naturally established herbaceous grasses and forbs, including weeds, that provide food and cover for wildlife. Examples are bluestem, indiagrass, blueberry, goldenrod, lambsquarters, dandelions, blackberry, ragweed, wheatgrass, fescue, and nightshade.

Hardwood trees and the associated woody understory provide cover for wildlife and produce nuts or other fruit, buds, catkins, twigs, bark, or foliage that wildlife eat. Examples of native plants are oak, poplar, cherry, apple, birch, beech, maple, ash and viburnum. Examples of fruit-bearing shrubs that are commercially available and suitable for planting on soils rated good are hawthorn,, sumac, silky dogwood, highbush cranberry, and crabapple.

Coniferous plants are cone-bearing trees, shrubs, or ground cover that furnish habitat or supply food in the form of browse, seed, or fruitlike cones. Examples are pine, spruce, hemlock, fir, yew, cedar, larch, and juniper.

Wetland plants are annual and perennial wild herbaceous plants that grow on moist or wet sites, exclusive of submerged or floating aquatics. They produce food or cover for wildlife that use wetland as habitat. Examples of wetland plants are smartweed, wild millet, rushes, sedges, reeds, wildrice, arrowhead, waterplantain, pickerelweed, and cattail.

Shallow water areas are bodies of surface water that have an average depth of less than 5 feet and are useful as habitat for wildlife. They can be naturally wet areas, or they can be created by dams or levees, or by water-control devices in marshes or streams. Examples are muskrat marshes, waterfowl feeding areas, wildlife watering developments, beaver ponds, and other wildlife ponds.

#### Kinds of Wildlife Habitat

Openland habitat consists of croplands, pastures, meadows, and areas that are overgrown with grasses, herbs, shrubs, and vines. These areas produce grain and seed crops, grasses and legumes, and wild herbaceous plants. The kind of wildlife attracted to these areas include Bobolinks, meadowlark, field sparrow, killdeer, cottontail rabbit, red fox, and woodchuck.

Woodland habitat consists of hardwood or conifers, or a mixture of these and associated grasses, legumes and wild herbaceous plants. Examples of wildlife attracted to this habitat are wild turkey, woodcock, thrushes, woodpeckers, owl, tree squirrels, , porcupine, raccoon, deer, and black bear.

Wetland habitat consists of water-tolerant plants in open, marshy or swampy, shallow water areas. Examples of wildlife attracted to this habitat are ducks, geese, herons, bitterns, rails, kingfishers, muskrat, otter, mink, and beaver.

See the National Soil Survey Handbook, Part 620, for criteria used in rating specific uses.

**WILDLIFE HABITAT SUITABILITY****Androscoggin and Sagadahoc County**

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<b>Soil name and map symbol</b>	<b>grain and seed crop</b>	<b>wild herb- aceous plants</b>	<b>grasses and legumes</b>	<b>hard- wood trees</b>	<b>conife rous plants</b>	<b>wetland plants</b>	<b>shallow water area</b>	<b>open land wild life</b>	<b>wood land wild life</b>	<b>wet land wild life</b>
<b>AaB</b>										
ADAMS	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
<b>AaC</b>										
ADAMS	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
<b>AaD</b>										
ADAMS	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
<b>AbD</b>										
ADAMS	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
<b>AdA</b>										
AGAWAM	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
<b>AdB</b>										
AGAWAM	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
<b>AdC</b>										
AGAWAM	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
<b>AdD</b>										
AGAWAM	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Very poor

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<b>B.P.</b>										
BORROW PITS	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor
<b>BgB</b>										
BELGRADE	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
<b>BgC</b>										
BELGRADE	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
<b>Bo</b>										
BIDDEFORD	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Good
<b>BuB2</b>										
BUXTON	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
<b>BuC2</b>										
BUXTON	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
<b>CfB</b>										
CHARLTON	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
<b>CfC2</b>										
CHARLTON	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor

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<b>CfD2</b> CHARLTON	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
<b>ChB</b> CHARLTON	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
<b>ChC</b> CHARLTON	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
<b>ChD</b> CHARLTON	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
<b>Ck</b> COASTAL BEACH	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor
<b>Du</b> DUNE LAND	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor
<b>EmB</b> ELMWOOD	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
<b>EmC2</b> ELMWOOD	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor

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<b>G.P.</b>										
SAND AND GRAVEL	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor
<b>Ha</b>										
HADLEY	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
<b>HfB</b>										
HARTLAND	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
<b>HfC2</b>										
HARTLAND	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
<b>HfD2</b>										
HARTLAND	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
<b>HkB</b>										
HINCKLEY	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Very poor
<b>HkC</b>										
HINCKLEY	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Very poor
<b>HkD</b>										
HINCKLEY	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Very poor

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<b>HrB</b> HOLLIS	Poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
<b>HrC</b> HOLLIS	Poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
<b>HrD</b> HOLLIS	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
<b>HsB</b> HOLLIS	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
<b>HsC</b> HOLLIS	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
<b>HsD</b> HOLLIS	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
<b>Lc</b> LEICESTER	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
<b>Le</b> LEICESTER	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Fair	Fair	Good	Fair	Poor	Fair	Fair

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<b>Lk</b>										
LIMERICK	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
<b>Md</b>										
MADE LAND										
<b>MeB</b>										
MELROSE	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
<b>MeC</b>										
MELROSE	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
<b>Mf</b>										
MADE LAND	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor
<b>MkB</b>										
MERRIMAC	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor
<b>MkC2</b>										
MERRIMAC	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor
<b>MkD2</b>										
MERRIMAC	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor

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<b>NgB</b>										
NINIGRET	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
<b>On</b>										
ONDAWA	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
<b>Pa</b>										
PEAT	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good
<b>PbB</b>										
MUCK	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good
<b>PbB</b>										
PAXTON	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
<b>PbC</b>										
PAXTON	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
<b>PbD</b>										
PAXTON	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
<b>PfB</b>										
PAXTON	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor

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<b>PfC</b>										
PAXTON	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
<b>PfD</b>										
PAXTON	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
<b>Py</b>										
PODUNK	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Poor
<b>QU.</b>										
QUARRIES	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor
<b>RhC</b>										
ROCK LAND	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor
<b>RhD</b>										
ROCK LAND	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor
<b>RhE</b>										
HOLLIS	Very poor	Fair	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
<b>RhF</b>										
ROCK LAND	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor
<b>RhG</b>										
HOLLIS	Very poor	Fair	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor

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<b>Sa</b> SACO	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Good
<b>ScA</b> SCANTIC	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
<b>So</b> SCARBORO	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Good
<b>SuC2</b> SUFFIELD	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
<b>SuD2</b> SUFFIELD	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
<b>SxB</b> SUTTON	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
<b>SxC</b> SUTTON	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
<b>SyB</b> SUTTON	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor

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<b>SyC</b> SUTTON	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
<b>SzA</b> SWANTON	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
<b>Tn</b> TIDAL MARSH	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good
<b>Wa</b> WALPOLE	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Good
<b>Wg</b> WHATELY	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good	Fair	Poor	Poor	Fair
<b>Wh</b> WHITMAN	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good	Fair	Poor	Poor	Fair
<b>Wn</b> WINOOSKI	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Poor
<b>WrB</b> WOODBIDGE	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor

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WSB	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
WOODBIDGE										